

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

5

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of searching for persons using a communication means comprising a plurality of the following steps:

- 10 (A) a step whereby a plurality of participants connect their terminals with a server in a condition enabling their mutual communication via a communication means,
(B) a step whereby each of said participants inputs personal information thereof into said server from said terminals,
(C) a step whereby said server provides a ~~questionnaire~~ plurality of various questionnaires
15 that ~~has~~ have been stored therein to each of said participants via said terminals,
(D) a step whereby said participants answer to said ~~questionnaire~~ questionnaires provided by said server using terminals,
(E) a step whereby said server detects other participants among a plurality of said participants who have given the same or a similar answer and/or other participants among
20 a plurality of participants who have given an opposite answer, ~~and~~
a step whereby, said step whereby said server provides a plurality of various questionnaires, said step whereby said participants answer said questionnaires, and said step whereby said server detects other participants, are repeated until the detection result reaches a predetermined number of people,
25 a step whereby in the case where said detection result becomes less than the predetermined number of people, the server goes back to the detection results of a questionnaire one prior to that questionnaire, and transmits a message to said terminal to direct the particular participant to prioritize other participants to be mutually introduced, and wherein, in the case where other participants to whom mutual introduction is desired
30 are present based on said order of priority, the server proceeds to the following step, and
(F) a step whereby ~~an~~ introductory information prepared based on said mutual personal information is provided via said terminals between said participant and other participants

who have given the same or a similar answer and/or who have given an opposite answer detected by said detection.

2. (currently amended) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim 1, wherein a common deadline for answering said ~~questionnaire~~ questionnaires by a plurality of participants has been previously set.

3. (currently amended) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim 1, wherein said method comprises ~~other a~~ a step after [the] said step (F) ~~whereby introductory information prepared based on said mutual personal information is provided, which enables of enabling~~ communications between both said participant and said another participant or among more than 3 participants.

4. (currently amended) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim 1, wherein said method comprises ~~other a~~ a step, after said step (E) ~~whereby said server detects other participants, and prior to said step (F) for whereby introductory information prepared based on said mutual personal information is provided, of confirming whether said participants desire mutual introductions or not.~~

Claims 5-7 (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein said method further comprises ~~steps whereby a step wherein, while steps (C) through (E) the step whereby said server provides a plurality of various questionnaires, the step whereby said participants answer said questionnaires, and the step whereby said server detects other participants,~~ are repeated, the server detects other participants among a plurality of participants who have given the same or a similar answer and/or other participants among a plurality of participants who have given an opposite answer, and notifies each participant of the detection results each time via said terminals.

9. (original) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim 1, wherein said method adapts a system of selecting one answer out of a plurality of answers of participant's own will, which have been previously prepared for said questionnaires.

5

10. (original) The method of searching for persons using a communication means according to claim 1, wherein said server sets up a system by which, a participant out of said participant or other participants who expresses the desire to be introduced to the other participant would pay the fee for said communication means after confirming his desire to be introduced to a partner.

10

11. (canceled)